

Editor's Mail Protest

The following is a letter written to Mayor Fran Sainsbury, a copy of which was received by The Tribune. It reads:

Dear Mrs. Sainsbury:
We don't know who else to take this matter up with so, as Harry Truman once said "the buck stops here."

I have enclosed a copy of a document that a guest at our home found on his windshield Dec. 28, 1987—a late Christmas gift from the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville—the friendliest town in Ontario, or words to that effect.

This has happened twice since we moved to this community. Each time our guest has pointed out they think the municipality has one heck of a nerve ticketing people \$3.00 or any amount for that matter, when one can stand and look at a rotting wreck on the same block, (a black Celica and trailer).

There are numerous examples all around Town of this same situation. Yet you ticket a holiday reveller.

We have waited a month to write because we wanted to monitor the streets around us to see how vigilant this "defender of the public good" really is.

There are, every night, (usually the same ones), parked on the street all night. But guess what? Nary a ticket to date!

We do not intend that either we or our guest pay any amount to park on streets that we, as taxpayers, own.

The vehicle was not unsightly nor was it blocking traffic. Therefore, I have enclosed the original so that you or your delegated official can arrange to cancel.

Sincerely,
Brian Foley,
219 Second Street,
Stouffville



The Tribune

ESTABLISHED 1888

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BUSINESS OFFICE: Manager Chris Bertram
NATIONAL SALES REPRESENTATIVE: Metroland Corporate Sales 493-1300

The Stouffville Tribune, published every Wednesday and Saturday at 54 Main St., Stouffville, Ont., is one of the Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing group of suburban newspapers, which includes: The Acton Free Press, Ajax Picking News Advertiser, Aurora Banner, Brampton Guardian, Burlington Post, Etobicoke Advertiser Guardian, Georgetown Independent, Markham Economist & Sun, Milton Champion, Mississauga News, Newmarket Era, Oakville Beaver, Oshawa Weekly, This Week, Richmond Hill Thornhill Valhalla Liberal, Scarborough Mirror, Topic News Magazine, Willowdale Mirror, Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing is a division of Hartquinn Enterprises Ltd. Single copies 50¢, subscriptions \$21.00 per year in Canada; \$55.00 elsewhere. Member of Canadian Community Newspaper Association, Ontario Weekly Newspaper Association, Ontario Press Council and Suburban Newspapers of America. Second class mail registration number 0896.

640-2100

649-2292

Editorials

A political decision

It's an election year boys, ruffle as few feathers as possible!

Uxbridge Council has obviously taken the 'safe' approach in rejecting a Christian Horizons group home in Testa Heights.

To their shame
All members present, with the exception of Councillor Cal Avery, voted against the application. Rejection was 5-1.

Councillor Avery chose not to play politics. Even in the face of opposition, he spoke in favor of the proposal.

To his credit
Council's reasoning was weak — not properly zoned; no live-in counsellor. Members, (excluding Councillor Avery), were so much putty in the hands of opponents.

Whitchurch-Stouffville's been this route. There was public opposition to the Horizons' home on North Street. But the application was approved regardless. We've heard nothing derogatory since. Quite the contrary.

Gamble era ends at last

The Gamble era has ended. For the good of the PC party in general and the Markham Riding in particular the end couldn't have come too soon.

John Gamble 'gave up the ghost' midway through a PC Riding Founding Meeting at Markham Dist. High School, Thursday.

Supporters were described as 'stunned' by the Gamble action.

We wonder why
Die-hard Gamble banner-wavers would be the first to admit moderation was never a visible characteristic. Quite the opposite. His views on many issues could best be described as radical; too radical for more tranquilized PCs to stomach.

On Thursday, they regurgitated John Gamble for a last time.

If the former MPP had wished to retain a thread of Party loyalty, he destroyed that too in accusing Don Cousens of engineering his defeat.

Whether Cousens did or didn't, (who knows, what plotting goes on behind closed doors), Gamble should have bitten his tongue and remained silent. For Don Cousens is held in high regard, by the Party and by the electorate. Make no mistake about that.

If Mr. Gamble wished to do any finger-pointing, that finger should have been pointed squarely at himself. He engineered his own defeat.

Support of this project is now an accepted goal of several churches in town; individuals as well.

And so it should be. It's a marvellous program, sponsored by a compassionate organization. The Uxbridge application should have been received with open arms by Council and the community. Instead, some residents, due possibly to ignorance, criticized the plan. Five politicians went along for the ride.

It's our understanding that group homes, regardless of zoning, must be accommodated in residential areas. The ruling is legislated by the province.

If so, (and we hope it is), the issue presents an excellent opportunity for MPP Bill Ballinger to flex his muscles and assert his authority on the side of human rights and commonsense.

As a former mayor and now a provincial parliamentarian, he can see both sides of the coin. We trust he'll see the situation for what it is and act accordingly.

This isn't an election year for him.

ROAMING AROUND

Too much at stake

BY JIM THOMAS



Remember your final year in Grade 8 or Senior Fourth as I knew it? Recall your first day in Grade 9 or First Form?

Doug McCammon does. Mr. McCammon's the 'extremely personable' (and very knowledgeable), Head of Guidance at Stouffville High.

I honestly believe he's doing an excellent job filling a very important post. I listened to him address a Grade 8 Parents' Night, Wednesday, at S.D.S.S. He made me think.

Doug McCammon mentioned the fact it was simpler 'back in the 60s' to choose academic courses at the secondary level because there were fewer courses from which to choose. You took this, this or this. Like it or lump it, that's all there was. The selection was limited.

While Mr. McCammon was undoubtedly speaking for the majority of moms and dads in the audience, he was undoubtedly looking past 'grandpa' Thomas seated two rows from the front. I relate, not to the 60s or even the 50s. I'm a product of the 40s, way back when the choice of courses was more limited still. For me, it was Commercial or Latin? Unfortunately, I choose the latter, peer pressure, I guess. Only girls and sissies took typing.

What a disaster. From the first day to the last, I wallowed in Roman gobbledegook, squeaking through only after my final exam paper was obliterated by a timely leak in the roof.

Back in 1944, Markham High didn't have a Doug McCammon on staff. I doubt it even had a Guidance Department. The choice was solely up to the student. I chose wrongly.

Following graduation, I had to start from scratch, go back to school and take the course I should have taken five years earlier, one that could possibly lead to a career.

Yes, it was a bitter pill. But I swallowed hard, took my medicine and fully recovered.

That was 40 years ago. But I haven't forgotten.

Right now, our Mary-Lynn stands at the same sensitive threshold. She's in Grade 8 at Orchard Park, unadmittedly facing similar fears and trepidations. However, her situation's ten times worse. For not only must she choose a list of optional subjects, but also decide on the level best suited to her skills.

This is grossly unfair. No 14-year-old should face this kind of pressure.

In a day and age when many senior students haven't a clue as to permanent vocations, the education bureaucrats place this responsibility on the shoulders of kids in Grade 8.

Ridiculous!
It's time for a change.

No, Mary-Lynn won't admit to concerns. Neither will her peers. "We can handle it," they say.

Can they?
Not if there're depending on their parents. All moms and dads I spoke to Wednesday, had the same reply. "It's too early to tell."

Sure, the Grade 8 teachers at Orchard Park, Summitview, Whitchurch-Highlands and so on will help. So will Mr. McCammon and Mrs. Sherman. But the decision ultimately rests with the student. At so early an age? It's idiotic!

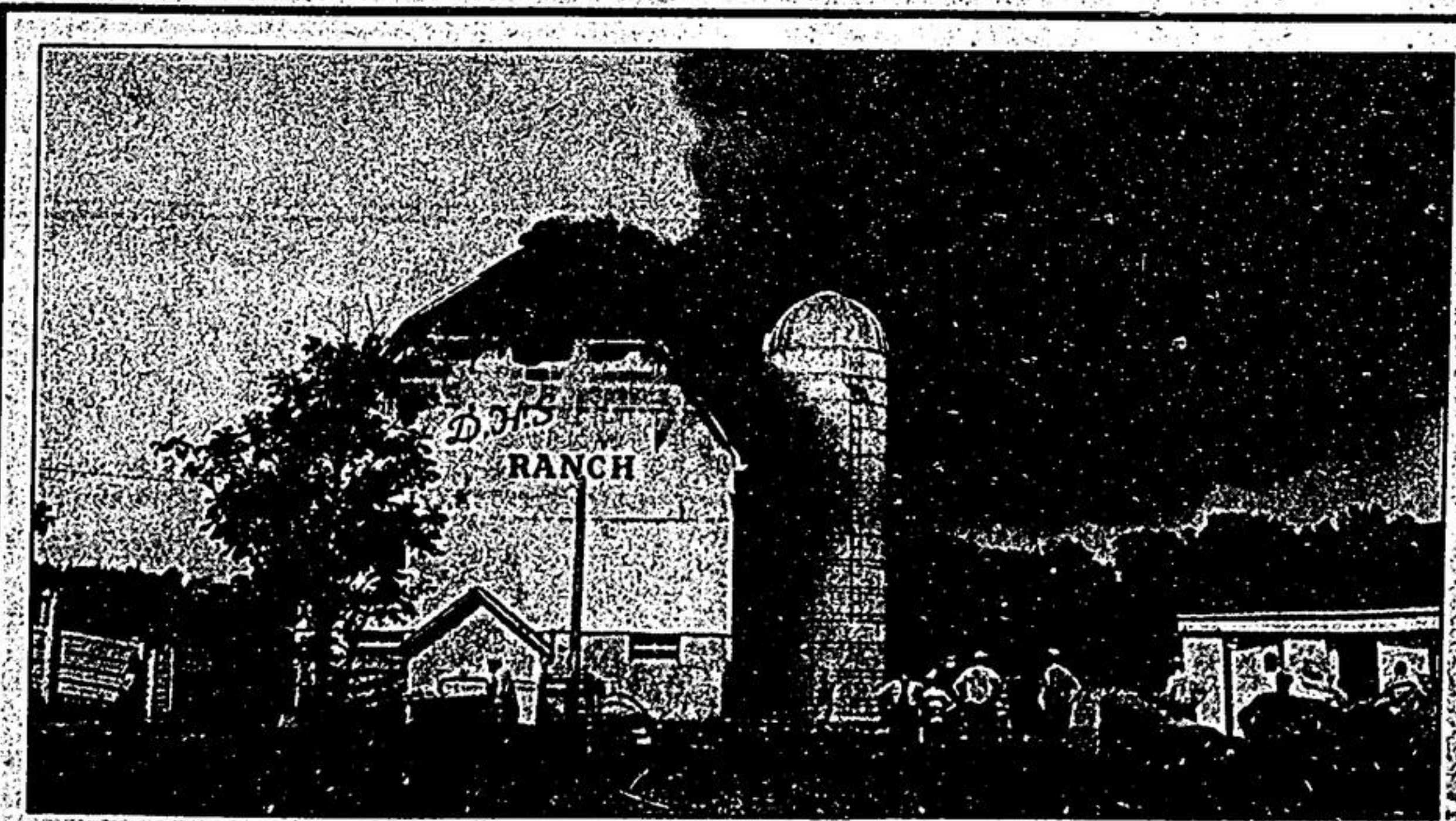
Mary-Lynn didn't want to accompany me Wednesday. "I've seen and heard it all before," she said, "besides, none of my friends will be there."

I insisted, and I'm glad I did. For the place was packed; mothers, fathers, sons and daughters all anxious to get a handle on the situation.

While I appreciate what administration and department heads are trying to do, I wonder, if, down deep, they consciously believe what they're doing is right?

Or do they feel like puppets on a string, being manipulated by people in higher (er) places?

For the sake of thousands of Mary-Lynns across this province, I sincerely hope not.



Markham barn goes up in flames

It was 1963 when a large barn on property owned by Harold and Don Boyington, Hwy. 48 and 18th Avenue, Markham, went up in flames. The farm is now owned by Harvey Brown and family. Firefighters could do little but stand and watch due to the fact the blaze had such a head start before they arrived.

—Jim Thomas

Editor's Mail No rights?

The following letter, addressed to Mayor Fran Sainsbury, was received by Town Council Feb. 9. It relates to the Sunday shopping issue and reads as follows:

Dear Mayor Sainsbury:
I'm in my seventies and have worked for 50 years.

I never had a car and yet I always managed to get my shopping done. Most people today have cars and can easily do their shopping after work or on Saturdays.

Have the rest of us no rights? In my opinion, we don't need the noise pollution of Sunday shopping or the additional pollution caused by cars.

Why should we have to make our way through heavy traffic on a Sunday in order to get to church? This is the way Stouffville would be if stores were open.

A family needs one day to be together. Families have become so fragmented.

Many store-owners want to remain closed. I'm sure they're entitled under the Charter of Rights.

God said there should be one day of rest. I don't believe any government has the right to say stores should remain open. So let's say "no" to the Sunday opening of stores.

A few people will scream and cry and act like spoiled brats because they can't have their own way. But they'll grow up in time.

I look forward to Stouffville's stores remaining closed on Sundays.

Sincerely,
Evelyn Rusnell,
Ninth Line South,
Stouffville